3647

THE FLYING ANGEL:

A

SERMON,

DELIVERED IN

THE NEW MEETING HOUSE ARMAGH, IRELAND,

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

EVANGELICAL SOCIETY OF ULSTER,

On Monday, the 27th of May, 1799.

By WILLIAM COOPER.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE.

"*Woe to them who are at* EASE *in Zion!!!*"

AMOS vi.—1.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

FOLLOWING

SERMON,

ADDRESSED

TO

THE CLERGY,

OF EVERY PERSUASION,

IN THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND,

IS

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

TO

THE MEMBERS

OF THE

EVANGELICAL SOCIETY OF ULSTER,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE READER.

THE following Sermon was preached before *the Committee and Members of the Evangelical Society of Ulſter*, at a Meeting held by them in the Rev. GEORGE HAMILTON's MEETING-HOUSE, *Armagh*; and is printed, with ſome Enlargements, *by their particular Requeſt.*

May GOD Almighty enable thee to read it with attention and candour, and make it very uſeful to thy Soul. *Weigh, conſider*, and *examine!* If the Thoughts ſuggeſted are according to GOD's Word, REJECT THEM NOT, *even though thou art condemned by them.* The Wiſe will receive Inſtruction, and increaſe Wiſdom; but Fools hate Knowledge.

CONSCIENCE *is the Umpire of GOD in thy Soul:* Now, if thy *Heart* condemn thee, GOD is greater than thy Heart, and knoweth all Things.

GRACE, MERCY, and PEACE, be multiplied unto thee. *Amen.*

THY SERVANT, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE,

WILLIAM COOPER.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE ENGLISH READER.

I BROUGHT two or three Copies of this Sermon with me from Ireland, but finding it much called for in this City, I have printed it: and though it is chiefly calculated for Uſefulneſs in Ireland, yet I hope it will not be entirely uſeleſs here. I commit thee and it to God.

Thy Servant, &c.

W. C.

No. 19, *Patriot Square.*

THE

FLYING ANGEL.

REV. xiv. 6.

"AND I saw another Angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

WHEN it was published yesterday, that a sermon should be preached this day, before you, my brethren, in this house, I had not the least apprehension of being myself the *Preacher*; but as the lot hath fallen upon me, I beseech you help me with your prayers; and may GOD help me, and enable me to speak that which shall be for HIS glory, and our mutual edification.

It is not my province, Gentlemen, to advise what measures are proper for you to pursue, in your EVANGELICAL SOCIETY; for I am come from England, with my dear brother * here present, only to labour for a season, under your direction, in the work of GOD, in this kingdom. But it is my desire, as far as in me lies, to fan that holy spark of zeal for GOD, which HIS Spirit hath already enkindled in your heart.

* The Rev. J. J. RICHARDS.

O my

O my brethren, I am not ſufficient of *myſelf* for this work! I beſeech you therefore to hear me with candour, and let my youth be an apology for every little inaccuracy that your more mature judgement may diſcern.

Far am I from ſuppoſing myſelf every way competent for explaining the important text which I have choſen; but ſhould we refrain from engaging in a work until we are able to do it *perfectly*, we ſhould remain for ever inactive. But "a man is accepted according to that which he *hath*, and not according to that which he *hath not*." What, therefore, the LORD hath revealed unto me, that will I ſpeak.

No part of GOD's Word, brethren, appears more ſuitable for our meditation, on the preſent occaſion, than this; as it is on all hands allowed to be a prophecy of the wide extenſion of that glorious GOSPEL, for the ſpreading of which your ſociety is formed.

The book of Revelation contains a ſeries of prophecy, revealed in viſion to ST. JOHN, of events which ſhould take place in the church of CHRIST, from the firſt promulgation of the Goſpel, down to the day of judgement. My text begins a new and diſtinct prophecy, which ſome think has been long ago fulfilled; but others, I conceive, with greater reaſon, are of a contrary opinion, and ſuppoſe, that *now* the time is at hand, when it ſhall be accompliſhed, at leaſt in its fullneſs.

In diſcourſing on the paſſage, I ſhall attend to the following particulars:

Firſt: Who, or what is intended by the ANGEL.—"I ſaw another *Angel*."

Secondly: The Place where he appeared.—"In the midſt of *Heaven*."

Thirdly: His Attitude.—"*Flying*."

Fourthly: His Furniture.—"The Everlaſting *Goſpel*." And,

Laſtly:

Laſtly: Why he was furniſhed with the *Goſpel*.
—"That he might *preach* it to them who dwell upon the earth, and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."

FIRST, we ſhall enquire, WHO? or WHAT is ſignified by this ANGEL?

The *name* "Angel" is not deſcriptive of the *nature* of the being ſo called, but of *the office he ſuſtains*: it ſimply ſignifies a "Meſſenger;" and ſo the original word is repeatedly tranſlated. Therefore every being, let his *nature* be what it may, if he ſuſtains the office of a *Meſſenger*, may, with ſtricteſt propriety, be called an *Angel* *.

Thus JESUS, the ALMIGHTY GOD OUR ETERNAL JEHOVAH, is called the *Angel of the Covenant* †.

Thus alſo his miniſtring ſpirits, which do his pleaſure, and are ſent down to miniſter unto the heirs of glory, are called *Angels* ‡.

So are the preachers of the Goſpel. We read in the Revelations of "the *Angels* of the ſeven churches §." Theſe are allowed, by all commentators, to ſignify the *miniſters* of thoſe churches, who, being by *nature* Men, are called, in their *official* character, 'Angels;' becauſe they are the *Meſſengers* of CHRIST, ſent with the glad news of mercy to poor periſhing ſinners.

Yea, even the INFERNAL SPIRITS are called "Angels," becauſe they are *Meſſengers*, ſent from hell to buffet || GOD's people, and do all the miſ-

* To ſay, therefore, that JESUS CHRIST cannot be GOD, *becauſe he is called an* ANGEL—muſt originate in perfect ignorance of the import of the term.—The original word for Angel—Hebrew, is מלאך (Malac or Maleac); to which the Greek word Ἄγγελος (angelos), anſwers and both are frequently tranſlated Meſſenger. See Prov. xiii. 17. Hag. i. 13. Malachi iii. 1. Matt. xii. 10. Luke vii. 24. James ii. 25.

† Mal. iii. 1. ‡ Heb. i. 14. § Rev. i. 10.

|| 2 Cor. xii. 7.

chief

chief in their power; and for this reaſon even *Satan* himſelf is called *The* ANGEL *of the bottomleſs pit* * !

Now, if the *name* 'Angel' were deſcriptive of the *nature* of the ſeveral beings who are ſo called, it would follow that the nature of GOD, and *Man*, and *ſpirits*, *celeſtial* and *infernal*, are alike! which were blaſphemous to ſuppoſe; but if it be a name merely deſcriptive of *office*, then it properly applies to either.

But the queſtion is, to *which* of thoſe beings doth it apply *in the words of our text?*

Not to a *ſpiritual* being, for theſe are not employed by GOD to preach the Goſpel. Once, indeed, an angel did preach the Goſpel, when he appeared to the ſhepherds, and ſaid, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy," &c. But this was only *once*; for, "GOD hath committed this treaſure to *earthen veſſels*, that the excellency of the power may appear to be of GOD, and not of Man †."

Some have thought, that JESUS CHRIST himſelf is here ſpoken of. Truly, the everlaſting Goſpel "*began* to be ſpoken by our LORD;" but this Angel hath the Goſpel to preach to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; whereas CHRIST was not ſent but to *the loſt ſheep of the houſe of Iſrael* ‡.

The *miniſters* of JESUS CHRIST are, therefore, doubtleſs intended by this "angel, flying in the midſt of heaven." But here ariſes another enquiry:

Is *one particular miniſter* alluded to? Or doth the Angel repreſent *all the miniſters of* CHRIST *in every age?*

And here men are divided in their opinions; and even thoſe who believe that *one particular* miniſter is alluded to, differ in their applications. Some

* Rev. ix. 11.

† 2 Cor. iv. 7. ‡ Matt. xv. 24.

ſuppoſe

ſuppoſe that *Jerome of Prague*, or *John Huſs*, is intended; others *Martin Luther*: ſome apply the title to *John Calvin*; others to *Wickliffe*, of England: ſome (who are partial to him) to *John Weſley*; and others to that immortal hero of JESUS CHRIST, *George Whitfield*. For my own part, were I inclined to give the title *excluſively* to any miniſter, it ſhould be to *George Whitfield*, of England; who, excepting only that great champion for GOD, *Martin Luther*, appears beſt to deſerve it: yea, the title, in many inſtances, will apply *better* to *Whitfield* than to *Luther* *. In England he began his glorious career. From ſhore to ſhore he ſounded the great Goſpel trumpet! Down to Scotland he flew with the glad tidings of mercy! back again to England, and through moſt parts of Wales, rallying round the bloody ſtandard of the CROSS! and near to this city did he uprear the glorious enſign. But theſe kingdoms would not ſuffice his great ſoul: thirteen times he croſſed the Atlantic Ocean, to and from the vaſt continent of America, preaching, as he flew, the everlaſting Goſpel to every creature! and, at laſt, *Elijah* like, went to heaven in a chariot of fire †!

But, much as I value the character of that great miniſter of GOD, I do not conceive the text applies *excluſively* to him. That he was *a flying angel*, and a very remarkable one, none can doubt. O that we had a thouſand like him! but I humbly conceive, that ALL *the* TRUE *miniſters of* JESUS CHRIST, *in every age, are repreſented by this* FLYING ANGEL!

But ſome may object, "Why then are they not repreſented by *many* angels flying in the midſt of heaven?" To which I anſwer, In the Scriptures a *definite* number is frequently given for an *indefinite*;

* On account of *Whitfield's* being the greateſt *itinerant*.
† His zeal continued to the end of his career.

and though the miniſters of JESUS CHRIST are many *perſons*, yet they are all one *in* CHRIST, and all one *in their work*. They are all choſen in the ſame everlaſting covenant, redeemed by the ſame precious Blood, called by the ſame grace, taught in the ſame ſchool, by the ſame Spirit; which Spirit dwells in them all, and BY IT are they all united in the ſame Head of the Church. Their meſſage is *one*; their object is *one*; namely, the glory of GOD, and the ſalvation of ſinners; and their glory and triumph ſhall be *one* in heaven; yea, they are but "members of the ſame body, and every one members one of another."

I beg your pardon, Brethren, for being ſo long on this *firſt* head of diſcourſe. I conclude it with two obſervations.

FIRST: From a conſideration of our *oneneſs* in the work, let not one miniſter deſpiſe another of inferior talents, or different gifts: "Let not the head ſay unto the feet, *I have no need of you.*"

SECONDLY: "Let us not envy one another, leſt we be devoured one of another." Let us remember, Brethren, that *each member hath its peculiar* PLACE *and* WORK *appointed*; and its qualifications are given accordingly. If they were all *one member*, where would be the *body?* The *noſe* cannot *ſee*, neither can the *eyes ſmell* or *hear*: the *feet* are for *walking*, and the *hands* for *handling*. Nevertheleſs, let each member be zealous in its *place* and *work!* *

SECONDLY: We conſider the Place where this Angel made his appearance, "In the midſt of *heaven.*"

By *heaven*, I underſtand not a *ſtate of glory*; for what preaching is needed *there?* but the *church militant* of JESUS CHRIST, which is generally ſo called throughout theſe prophecies.

* 1 Cor. xii. 12. to the end.

Thus,

Thus, when miniſters are deſcribed as falling away from the true faith and church of CHRIST, and becoming *worldly-minded*, &c. they are likened to STARS *falling from* HEAVEN.* ; and JESUS himſelf uſually ſpake of HIS church as *the kingdom of* GOD, *the kingdom of* HEAVEN, &c.†

But ſome will ſay, *Wherefore is the church called* HEAVEN ? I anſwer :

FIRST, Becauſe it is *heaven* compared with the world, that lieth in wickedneſs. SECONDLY, Becauſe of the ſimilarity between the joys of heaven, and that joy in the Holy Ghoſt, which a *real* Chriſtian enjoys in the church below.

Doth GOD reign in heaven ? He reigns alſo in his church on earth ! Is he glorious in the Skies ? He is glorious in his church alſo ! HIS PRESENCE makes the heaven of all his ſaints ABOVE, and it is even ſo below, both in his church *militant* and *triumphant* ! He is the chiefeſt among ten thouſand ! the altogether lovely ! He inhabiteth the praiſes of his people, and is worſhipped by them : their beauty and comelineſs is all emitted from him, and he alone is glorified ! They all unite in ſaying, *Whom have we in heaven but* THEE! *and there is none on earth that we deſire beſide* THEE! THOU ART ALL, AND IN ALL!!!

Thus we perceive the likeneſs between *heaven* and the *church* ; only *there* that ſhall be *perfected*, which *here* is only *begun*. *Here* the *honey* is mixed with *gall* ; but *there* it ſhall be without mixture : ALL HONEY ! ALL FINE HONEY !

But the Angel was ſeen " in the midſt of heaven :"

Intimating, FIRST, that MINISTERS ſtand betwixt the living GOD and dead ſinners. O brethren, take heed that the blood of ſinners be not upon you ! " Wo be unto me, if I preach not the Goſpel ! ! !"

* Rev. xii. 4.

† *Vide* Mark i. 15. Matt. xi. 11. Mark x. 14. *&c. &c.*

SECONDLY, His being in the midſt of heaven, intimates the ſpiritual mindedneſs of GOD's miniſters; they are not of the earth, earthly; their minds are not ſenſual; neither are they grovelling in the duſt; but their ſouls are ſoaring aloft! and their affections are placed on things above, and not on things below!

THIRDLY, this intimates that the miniſters of CHRIST are conſpicuous characters. When JESUS CHRIST lights up one of theſe candles, he doth not put it under a buſhel, but on a candleſtick, that light may be given to all around: we are held up a ſpectacle to men and angels. O Brethren, I beſeech you do not bury yourſelves in obſcurity, confining your labours to a corner! but *fly in the midſt of heaven!* Come forth, ſhew yourſelves like men! Awake! O arm of the LORD! awake as in the ancient days!

But ſome will ſay, Is not this a *dangerous* ſituation? Yes, my Brethren, it is: the eyes of men, and of the All-ſeeing GOD are upon you! and *Satan* will let fly many a poiſoned arrow at you, and hurl many a fiery dart; but the ſhield of faith will repel them; and HE who holdeth the ſtars in his hand will keep you from falling! Only TRUST IN HIM!

Yet, fearful is the thought, that after I have preached to others, *myſelf* ſhould be *a caſt-away*!!! "They will fall low into hell who fall from *under* the pulpit; but lower they who fall *out* of it!!!" But, Brethren, *ye* are not of them who fly without commiſſion from GOD: *ye* have made your call to the miniſtry clear!

In the THIRD place, let us conſider the Angel's Poſition—"*flying*." "I ſaw another Angel *fly*," &c. And,

FIRST, By this figure is repreſented his zeal and activity in the work. He is neither *laying* nor

ſitting,

ſitting, my Brethren: no; nor will *walking* ſuffice; but he *flies* in the midſt of heaven.

He is not an *hireling*, who careth for the *wool* and the *fat*, but not for the *ſheep*; nor is he one of thoſe *dumb* dogs, who cannot bark; but ſleeping, laying down, loving to ſlumber, they do the work of the LORD *negligently* *: No; his whole heart and ſoul are in the work, and therefore he *flies* in the midſt of heaven †!

Too many, alas! in this day are crying, "Put me into the prieſt's office, that I may eat a morſel of bread ‡!" But this angel findeth his reward in *the work*; and ſeeking *firſt* the kingdom of GOD, and his righteouſneſs, he leaves the reſt with GOD!

Many *talk* of ſpending, and being ſpent for GOD; but this angel is not a *mere talker*: he is not afraid of *doing too much* for GOD; but is inſtant *in* ſeaſon and *out of* ſeaſon, preaching the WORD. GOD hath made him A FLAME OF FIRE §; AND HE FLIES IN THE MIDST OF HEAVEN!

SECONDLY: We learn from this figure, *the* IRRESISTABILITY *of the* GOSPEL.

A ponderous body, put in motion, is carried further, and with greater velocity than one that is *light*. Now, here is a mighty angel, flying with a mighty Goſpel; and the arm of the mighty GOD

* "Curſed is he that doeth the work of the LORD negligently." Jer. xlviii. 10.

† Wicked miniſters have been the ſame from the beginning as they are now. What a lively picture hath Iſaiah drawn of them! Iſa. lvi. 10, 11, 12. "His *Watchmen* are *blind*: they are all *ignorant!*" they are all *dumb dogs!* they *cannot* bark! *ſleeping, laying down, loving* to *ſlumber!* Yea, they are *greedy* dogs which can *never have enough!* and they are *ſhepherds* that *cannot underſtand!* They all look to *their own way!* every one for his *gain* from his *quarter!!!* Come ye, ſay they, *I* will *fetch wine*, and we will *fill ourſelves* with *ſtrong drink*; and to-morrow ſhall be as this day, and *much more abundant!*"

Open thine eyes, Reader! ſee to whom *this* picture anſwers; and ſay, *are ſuch men fit for Leaders in the church of* CHRIST?

‡ 1 Sam. ii. 3. 6. § Pſal. civ. 4. Heb. i. 7.

hath

hath put them in motion! Who, then, ſhall hinder their progreſs?

Wicked ſpirits, and wicked men, will combine to ſtop the progreſs of this everlaſting Goſpel; but GOD ſhall laugh them to ſcorn! for eaſier would it be to arreſt the ſun in his career, or with our hand throw back the rays of light, than hinder the promiſed ſpread of this glorious Goſpel! "The LORD ſhall eſtabliſh his houſe in the mountains." "The wood, and the hay, and the ſtubble ſhall be conſumed." "And the LORD alone ſhall be exalted in that day!"

Homer deſcribes a torrent of water, burſting from the top of a lofty rock, and thundering down its ſide, bearing all before it, until it finds a bed in the valley! So is the Spirit of GOD gone forth, in the everlaſting Goſpel! and kings, with their armies, ſhall flee before it, and all principalities and powers that are inimical to it, ſhall be ſwept down!

Thirdly: The Angel's poſition intimates the amazing rapidity with which the Goſpel ſhall ſpread. He FLIES! ſwift as an eagle! ſwift as a cannon ball! or the darting rays of light!

GOD, my Brethren, can do much work in a little time. Who can but ſtand aſtoniſhed at the London Miſſionary Society! In the beginning, it was but as a man's hand, but now it is become a great cloud, overſhadowing the whole Chriſtian hemiſphere!

"GOD will cut ſhort his work in righteouſneſs. His Word ſhall run, and have free courſe, and be glorified! A nation ſhall be born in a day! The LORD ſhall give the word, and great ſhall be the company of the preachers: many ſhall run to and fro [i. e. *itinérate*], and knowledge ſhall be encreaſed! The fullneſs of the Gentiles ſhall flow in, and all Iſrael be turned unto the LORD: Yea, the earth ſhall be full of the knowledge of the LORD,

and

and ALL ſhall know him, from the higheſt to the loweſt!"

O my Brethren! do not your hearts burn within you, while you contemplate theſe glorious promiſes? And ſee the day approaching! Surely, if we were to hold our peace, the very ſtones would cry out! Perhaps many of us ſhall live to ſee theſe golden days! Amen! O LORD! amen!

FOURTHLY, We proceed to conſider the FURNITURE of this Angel.

He is not, my Brethren, locked up in *ſteel*, or armed with *ſwords* and *ſtaves*; for GOD's religion ſhall never be propagated by carnal weapons: that religion which is ſo propagated *cannot* be of GOD; for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but ſpiritual and mighty, to the pulling down of the ſtrong holds of Satan. The furniture of this Angel is, the everlaſting Goſpel!

The word "*Goſpel*" is derived from the *Saxon* language, and ſignifies *good news*, a *good meſſage*, or *glad tidings*; becauſe it declares, that, according to the eternal purpoſe of GOD, JESUS CHRIST came into the world to ſave loſt ſinners. He was made under the law, to redeem them who were under the law; and in the fulneſs of time, being delivered by the determinate council and foreknowledge of GOD, he was taken, and by cruel hands was ſlain, and hanged on a tree! But GOD raiſed him from the dead, he having fully ſatisfied by his death Divine Juſtice, for all the ſins of the elect world; in proof of which, he roſe for our juſtification, and aſcended up into heaven, *leading captivity captive*, and ever liveth at the right hand of GOD, to make interceſſion for us. Henceforth poor prodigal ſinners are bid welcome to the arms of a reconciled Father! and the vileſt are ſaved, through vital faith in his blood! for the kingdom of heaven is thrown wide open to all believers! and ſuch are freely and fully

juſtified

juſtified from all things, by which it was impoſſible for them to be juſtified by the law of Moſes!

Now this is good news, to every ſinner who is crying out, in the bitterneſs of his ſoul, "What muſt I do to be ſaved?" Not half ſo joyful to the half-wrecked mariner is the ſight of land, or the finding of bread to a poor ſtarving creature, as the news of mercy, through the blood of CHRIST, to this poor ſinner's ſoul! This ſets his heart at liberty! makes his eyes overflow with tears of gratitude! while his ſoul cries out, "What ſhall I render to the LORD for all that I have received at his hands?"

However, the Goſpel will never be truly acceptable to any ſinner, until he feels himſelf condemned by the law, which is a ſchoolmaſter to bring us to CHRIST.

Some fondly ſuppoſe, that our command to preach the *Goſpel*, doth forbid our preaching the *Law*. But if a ſinner will not receive the Goſpel until he feels himſelf condemned by the Law, it is, doubtleſs, a part of our miniſterial work, to ſet the Law, in all its fire, before his eyes; and where this is neglected, the Word of God is preached but *in part*.

As the late excellent RALPH ERSKINE, of Scotland, obſerves, "The Law may be preached, on Goſpel principles, but the Goſpel muſt not be *legallized*"

The Law is not only good for the awakening of ſinners, but alſo it is profitable unto ſaints; for as the wintry ſtorm, beating on our roof, and whiſtling without, makes us more ſenſible of the bleſſings of a ſhelter from it; even ſo the ſuitable preaching of the Law doth make Chriſtians more thankful for JESUS CHRIST, the hiding-place from the ſtorm, and for the ſweet Goſpel of his Grace.

But why is it called an *everlaſting* Goſpel?

FIRST,

FIRST, Becauſe the everlaſting GOD is its Author!

SECONDLY, On account of its *antiquity*, in oppoſition to every *new* doctrine. This is the good old way, planned in the infinite mind of GOD, from all eternity! "That which was *from the beginning*, which we have heard, which we have ſeen with our eyes, and our hands have handled, of the word of life, have we declared unto you."

THIRDLY, It is ſo called on account of its *durability*. All fleſh is graſs, and all the glory of man like the flower of the field, fading away! The heavens ſhall be rolled together as a ſcroll! the mountains and the hills ſhall depart! the elements ſhall melt with fervent heat! To uſe the maſterly language of an Engliſh poet,

"The cloud-capt towers,
"The gorgeous palaces,
"The ſolemn temples,
"The great globe itſelf,
"Yea, all that it inherit ſhall diſſolve;
"And, like the baſeleſs fabric of a viſion,
"Leave not a wreck behind!

but the Word of the LORD ſhall endure for ever! and this is that Word which, in the Goſpel, is preached unto you.

FOURTHLY, It is called the *everlaſting* Goſpel, becauſe its promiſes and bleſſings are ſuch. All the promiſes of GOD are yea and amen in CHRIST, and concern our eternal intereſts. Everlaſting righteouſneſs, brought in by CHRIST, is diſplayed in the Goſpel: the mercy of GOD is herein ſet forth, which is from everlaſting to everlaſting, toward all them that fear him; and poor ſinners thereby are directed to JESUS CHRIST, in whom they ſhall be ſaved with an everlaſting ſalvation! and all who believe this Goſpel ſhall partake of everlaſting peace, everlaſting joy, everlaſting glory!

O Sinner! what knoweſt thou *experimentally* of

 this

this everlasting Gospel? Hath it come unto thee, not in *word* only, but in *power*, and in demonstration of the Spirit, and with much assurance? This is the Word, by which thou shalt be judged! Blessed art thou, if thou *knowest* the joyful sound!

LASTLY, I proceed to enquire, *Wherefore* is the Angel thus furnished with the *everlasting Gospel?*

The Answer is, "To preach unto them who dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."

OBSERVE: This Gospel is not committed to the Angel merely for his own private use, to be kept secret in his own bosom; but to be published by him unto others. As CHRIST said, "What I have spoken to you in secret, that declare ye on the house-top; as the water is not committed to the clouds to be retained there, but to be distilled in rain upon the earth, even so we have the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them who dwell upon the earth. But, alas! in our day *we have many clouds without water!* Ye that make mention of the LORD, *keep not silence.*

But observe, the angel hath the everlasting Gospel to *preach.* The leading idea of the word *preach* is, "to declare with authority," as an herald. It was remarked of old, by CHRIST's auditors, that "he spake as one having authority, and not as the Scribes. The same may be said now of all CHRIST's *truly-sent* ministers: they speak with authority, and not as the *Scribes:* they speak what they know *experimentally:* they have their subject in their *heart*; and "out of the abundance of the heart their mouth speaketh;" while others are obliged to *read* sermons from a book, or else *get them by rote,* and repeat them *verbatim* in public, as a school boy doth his task! Alas! alas! But, my brethren, *reading* is not *preaching.* The Angel hath the everlasting Gospel to *preach.* It is an insult to GOD to suppose, that HE will send any man

man to *preach* without giving him ability to do it! What then muſt we ſay of thoſe miniſters who evidently *cannot* preach?

How animated are the extemporary ſpeeches of ſome counſellors, when they plead a cauſe in which they are only concerned for the ſake of *gold:* and ſhall it ever be ſaid, that GOD's miniſters are outdone by them; GOD forbid.

However, no man can preach with authority, unleſs he have authority to preach; and it is GOD's prerogative alone to give us that authority; and no college, biſhop, preſbytery, or any man or ſet of men, can ever make *true* miniſters of them whom GOD hath not called to preach. *Unconverted** men, by preaching, or pretending to preach GOD's Word, heap up vengeance and damnation on their own ſouls. "Who hath required this at your hands, ſaith the LORD, that ye ſhould take my words into your lips?" "Many ſhall come, in that day, ſaying, 'LORD, we have taught in thy name, and in thy name have we caſt out devils, and done many other marvellous works:' to whom CHRIST will ſay, 'Depart from me! I never knew you, ye workers of iniquity!'

O! what a bleſſing it is, my Brethren, to *know* our call to this great work! Let us always remember WHO hath called us, and ſaid "Go ye into the high-ways and hedges, and compel them to come in." This will embolden us againſt all oppoſition, and ſtrengthen us to declare the whole council of GOD. "Be not afraid of their faces; for *I* am

* By *unconverted* men, I mean, all thoſe who are ignorant of the plague of their own heart, and of the work of GOD's Spirit upon it, who have never been renewed in the ſpirit of their mind, or born again by the Spirit of GOD; but are *carnal* and *worldly-minded,* delighting in *cards, dancing, drinking,* and other ſinful pleaſures and purſuits, who are *indeed* conformed to *this world,* and not of JESUS CHRIST; for *whatſoever is not of faith, is ſin.*

with thee, ſaith the LORD; and thoſe that honour me, *I* will honour, but thoſe who deſpiſe me, ſhall be deſpiſed. Ye have put your hands, Brethren, to the Goſpel plough; dare not to look back; go on; and GOD ſhall proſper you. Mountains ſhall crumble into duſt before HIM! JESUS is your captain, and "human probability muſt give up the command, when the LORD of Hoſts appears in the field!"

But *to whom* is this Goſpel to be preached? "To thoſe who dwell upon the earth," i. e. to poor Sinners, who are not yet in the pale of CHRIST'S church, but are unconverted, and ſitting in darkneſs without * !

Here then, my brethren, we perceive how great an error it is to ſay, that the Goſpel is to be preached *only* to *converted* people; whereas CHRIST ſays, "Preach the Goſpel to *every creature*;" and this *angel*, in obedience to *that* command, is repreſented, preaching it "to them who dwell on the earth," &c. Yea, JESUS himſelf delighted in calling ſinners to Repentance, and ſtill delights in bleſſing their miniſtry who tread in his ſteps; while he pours contempt on thoſe, who are *wiſe above that which is written*. If, then, they are moſt ſucceſsful in their miniſtrations, who both ſound the alarm, and publiſh the glad tidings of ſalvation to ſinners, it is evident that their conduct is moſt conſiſtent with the mind and will of God.

But is this angel ſent to *one particular* people on earth? No: he hath the everlaſting Goſpel to preach to *every nation, kindred, tongue, and people*. The commands of JESUS CHRIST to his miniſters are, "Go ye into *all the world*, and preach the Goſpel to *every creature!* and withal he gives them

* Not *excluſively* to them, for GOD'S people muſt be fed: however, let not poor ſinners be forgotten.

a heart,

a heart, as large as the world! they cannot ſee poor ſinners dropping into hell, without being concerned, and, to the utmoſt of their power, ſtriving to ſave ſome.

But ſay ſome, "Let every man keep to *his own pariſh*." Shew me, my Brethren, a map of the world, and I'll ſhew you a map of *my* pariſh; for "Go ye into *all the World*" is my commiſſion, and, as far as in me lies, I am willing to be obedient.

If every Miniſter were zealous in his congregation or pariſh, perhaps there would not be ſo great a neceſſity for *itinerant* preaching *. But as this is not the caſe, O my Brethren, let us go forth *without* the camp, bearing the reproach of CHRIST. GOD's preſence is not confined to *places*; neither let *us* be confined; but wherever we have an opportunity, whether *in* doors, or *out*, according to the worthy example of CHRIST and his apoſtles, let us preach the Goſpel! for, who is lord over us ſave GOD?

We live in an eventful day: the prince of darkneſs is muſtering all his forces, and appears already at the head of a numerous army! CHRIST hath mounted his white horſe, and is leading forth his ſoldiers to battle! The world is on tip-toe, waiting the iſſue of the combat! We know who will be the conqueror! Ye ſervants of the Moſt High GOD, fight manfully, and the LORD ſhall give you the victory!

The choirs are even now gathering in heaven, and the ſilver trumpet is preparing to ſound Victory! Victory! Victory! through all the ſkies! Another angel is even now in ſight crying "BABYLON IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN!!!"

HALLELUJAH! the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our LORD, and of his

* But even then it would be neceſsary, for I do think the Church of CHRIST ſhould always have *itinerant* preachers.

and

and of his CHRIST! and he ſhall reign for ever and ever.

Now, to GOD *the* FATHER, SON, *and* HOLY GHOST, *be everlaſting praiſe.* Amen.

FINIS.

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